

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*The Entomologist's Annual for 1855.* Edited by H. T. STANTON.  
London: Van Voorst, 1855. 12mo. With one Plate.

THE Editor of the "Entomologist's Annual" proposes, by means of this publication, to render British Entomology a service, very similar to that done for the science in general by the admirable reports furnished for so many years in Wiegmann's 'Archiv' by the late Dr. Erichson, and still so ably continued by Dr. Schaum. The information required is of course, to a great extent, of a very different character:—instead of a view of the general progress of the science, the collector of British insects desires only to know what new species may have been discovered in this country; what once rare species may have turned up in unexpected profusion; what changes may have been made in the nomenclature of well-known species; and, if he gets this information, coupled, perhaps, with an account of any discoveries made in connection with the transformations of British insects, which may enable him to procure good specimens for his cabinet, he will probably remain satisfied. To supply these wants, by bringing together at the commencement of each year the scattered information on British Entomology accumulated during that which has just elapsed, is the object of the present little work, which we have no doubt will prove highly acceptable to the class of naturalists for whose benefit it has been prepared.

The "Annual" for 1855, however, which must be regarded merely as preparatory, departs considerably from this general plan; consisting almost entirely of notices of the new species of Coleoptera, Aculeate Hymenoptera, and Lepidoptera discovered in Britain since the dates of the last general works upon those branches, with references to the English works in which the occurrence of these species has been recorded. The Coleoptera have been worked up by Mr. Janson, the Aculeate Hymenoptera by Mr. F. Smith, and the Lepidoptera by the Editor; and these reports, which are apparently executed with all the care and accuracy that might be expected from gentlemen whose attainments in their several departments are so well known, will no doubt prove exceedingly useful to many a student of British Entomology. The space occupied by these reports, extending, as they do, over periods varying from fifteen to more than fifty years, has necessarily precluded the insertion of any other information; but this cause of omission can, of course, only occur once. Amongst the Lepidoptera, the occurrence of several hitherto unrecorded British insects, including some new species, is noticed, and of these descriptions are given.

In his preface, Mr. Stanton gives us to understand, that, besides the miscellaneous information above alluded to, several papers of a lighter character, such as "Sayings and Doings at St. Osyth," by Mr. Douglas, and "Results of a Summer's Residence at Fochabers," by Mr. Scott, which, in his opinion, would have rendered the work more popularly attractive, have also been excluded from want of

space. Mr. Douglas's "Sayings and Doings" may be everything that could be wished, and we must congratulate Mr. Scott upon the results of his residence at Fochabers, since they appear to have been so agreeable to that gentleman personally, that he wishes to make the Entomological public partakers of his happiness, as far as can be done by the imperfect medium of type, ink, and paper—a kind intention, for which he deserves great credit; but we think that such papers as these are hardly suited to the pages of this Annual,—about the last place in which we should think of looking for light reading.

The space to be devoted to these and similar articles might also be occupied in a manner which would add greatly to the value of the book, and prove highly acceptable to the generality of British entomologists, who are by no means notorious for an extensive acquaintance with foreign Entomological literature. Thus, a few pages might be devoted to notices of new observations, published in foreign countries, upon the habits and transformations of species of insects which also inhabit Britain, and a list of those foreign works published during the year which contain descriptions of insects which are, or may possibly be, found in these islands, would be a great assistance to many of our entomologists. If space still remained unoccupied, there is another branch of the science which has not yet been thought of—the anatomy and physiology of insects. Short abstracts of important papers on these subjects would not be out of place, and would not only be useful to the few who devote themselves to such pursuits in this country, but might have the effect of adding greatly to their numbers.

With these suggestions we take leave of the "Entomologist's Annual for 1855," wishing it every success, and trusting that each succeeding volume may show such an improvement upon its predecessors, that, in the course of a year or two, their resemblance to their present "larval" representative may scarcely be greater than is exhibited by the Editor's favourite insects in their first and last states.

*A Catalogue of British Fossils, comprising the Genera and Species hitherto described; with references to their Geological Distribution and the Localities in which they have been found.* By JOHN MORRIS, F.G.S. Second Edition, considerably enlarged. 8vo. London, 1854. Printed and published for the Author (Kennington).

Since the time when it was discovered that particular fossils are characteristic of certain deposits, and that thereby, as a general rule, fossiliferous strata of districts even remote from each other may be identified as contemporaneous deposits and members of one stratigraphical series, the science of geology has attained an established position, and has proved not only of interest to the philosopher, but of value to the practical man. Geologists therefore have necessarily given increased attention to the study of petrifications or fossilized